

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00471 270408Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----270410Z 130613 /66

O P 261115Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3063
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDONPRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
COMIDEASTOR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MUSCAT 0471

EXDIS

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ON US
SUBJECT: U.S. USE OF MASIRAH ISLAND

REF: STATE 062009

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI RECEIVED ME MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS
MASIRAH QUESTION, HAVING EARLIER POSTPONED MARCH 23 APPOINT-
MENT BECAUSE SULTAN HAD SUMMONED HIM TO DHOFAR THAT DAY ON
SHORT NOTICE. STATING I WAS SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, I
OUTLINED ENTIRE CONTENTS OF PARA 1 REFTEL AND LEFT

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AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING THEM. I ALSO HANDED MINISTER A
SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER BASED ON PARAS 3 AND 4 OF CINCPACFLT
192201Z FEB 77 LISTING THE SUPPORT FACILITIES OUR AIRCRAFT WOULD
REQUIRE OR WOULD FIND DESIRABLE AT MASIRAH AIRFIELD.

2. RESPONDING TO THIS PRESENTATION, ZAWAWI ADDRESSED HIMSELF
FIRST TO THE LIST OF SUPPORT FACILITIES REQUIRED. HE SAID HE

WOULD PASS IT AT ONCE TO SOAF (SULTAN OF OMAN'S AIR FORCE.)
HE SAID TH ELIST LOOKED REASONABLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD TO HIM
BUT PERHAPS SOAF WOULD HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON IT,
AND ON THE MATTER OF CHARGES FOR SERVICE RENDERED. I SAID WE
WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEEK ANSWERS TO ANY QUESTIONS HE OR SOAF
MIGHT HAVE ON LOGISTICS. I ADDED THAT WHILE WE APPRECIATED
OMAN'S DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS TO JOIN IN STRENGTHENING REGIONAL
SECURITY, AS EVIDENCED BY SERIES OF P-3 FLIGHTS WE HAVE BEEN
MAKING UP TO NOW, WE ASSUME THERE WILL BE SOME LANDING FEES
OR SOMETHING OF THE KIND FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO AIRCRAFT
THAT MAY VISIT IN THE FUTURE. I ADDED THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE
LEARNING WHAT OMAN THINKS THE LEVEL OF THESE FEES SHOULD BE.
ZAWAWI MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS ASPECT.

3. THE MINISTER SAID THAT ON THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF
CONDUCTING FUTURE VISITS HE WOULD BE GETTING BACK TO ME AFTER
REVIEW WITHIN HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER
TO SAY FOR THE MOMENT BEYOND WHAT HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED SOME
TIME AGO WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND ME ON VARIOUS
OCCASIONS. OMAN, HE ADDED, HOPES THERE MAY BE POSSIBLE SOME
EXCHANGE OF SELECTED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION WE ACQUIRE THROUGH
FUTURE SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS REFUELING AT MASIRAH. INTELLIGENCE
ON SOVIET SHIP MOVEMENTS NEAR OMANI SHORES WOULD BE OF
SPECIAL INTEREST. I ASKED WHAT CHANNEL HE WOULD ENVISAGE
FOR THIS EXCHANGE, IF THE CONCEPT OF EXCHANGE WERE AGREED, I.E.
WOULD HE BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED OR WOULD IT BE SOME OTHER ENTITY
WITHIN OMANGOV. ZAWAWI RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGH THIS WOULD
BE "THE PALACE OFFICE, SPECIFICALLY THE SULTAN'S EQUERRY, TIM
LANDON."

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4. COMMENT: ZAWAWI WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS AND APPEARED TO WELCOME
MY PRESENTATION. AS HE MADE ABSOLUTELY NO REFERENCE TO QUESTION
OF COMPENSATION BEYOND WHAT I HAVE REPORTED ABOVE, I DID NOT
DRAW ON CONTENTS OF REFTEL PARA 3. FROM TONE OF HIS STATEMENTS
I GAINED IMPRESSION THAT OUR APPROACH WAS ABOUT WHAT HE HAD
ANTICIPATED AND THAT IT GAVE HIM ENOUGH TO WORK ON FOR THE
PRESENT. I SUSPECT WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT IS THAT ZAWAWI WILL
HUDDLE WITH BRIGADIER LANDON (DUE BACK FROM EXTENDED ABSENCE
ANY DAY NOW) AND THAT ZAWAWI AND LANDON TOGETER (OR SEPARATELY)
WILL BRIEF SULTAN QABOOS AND FORM OMAN'S RESPONSE. MEANSHILE
OF COURSE SOAF WILL BE CONSIDERING THE LOGISTICS SIDE. ASSUMING
LANDON DOES RETURN SOON. I THINK I WILL BE HEARING FROM OMANIS
SHORTLY ON THIS SUBJECT. JUST WHAT THEY WILL SAY REGARDING
COMPENSATION AND/OR "LANDING FEES" IS SHEER GUESSWORK AT THIS
POINT, THOUGH I BELIEVE IT A CERTAINTY OMAN WILL WANT US TO
CONTINUE VISITING MASIRAH IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT. END COMMENT.
WOLLE

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